



# California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2003 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

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## Northern California and North Coast Region

### General Deer Hunting Information For

## ZONE C-3

### and

## Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-1

(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone C-3 located in portions of Shasta County. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-1; C Zones Archery Only), general season (C Zone Tag), and "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area contact the Northern California and North Coast Region Office, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300).

### **REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg\\_comm/2003/mammalregs03.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2003/mammalregs03.html)

The 2003 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone C-3 (C Zones general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet. Season dates vary between "C" zones, so be sure to check the current regulations for the "C" zone(s) you plan to hunt.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone C-3, hunters must possess an A-1 hunt tag (C Zones Archery Only Hunt). This tag is valid in any "C" zone (C-1, C-2, C-3 or C-4), but **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even with archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone C-1, a hunter must possess a "C" Zones tag (C Zones general season). This tag is valid in any "C" zone (C-1, C-2, C-3 or C-4), but **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-1 archery season, even with archery equipment.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone C-3 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application

procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate "C" zone (Zone C-1, C-2, C-3 or C-4) where they killed their buck; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the department within 30 days of taking a deer.

#### **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone C-3 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone C-3 are administered by the Lassen and Shasta-Trinity National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

##### **USFS Offices:**

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-2151)  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Avenue, Redding, CA 96001 (530-244-2978)

##### **BLM Offices:**

Redding District, 355 Hemsted Road, Redding, CA 96002 (530-224-2100)

Access to other State administered lands may also be possible. For additional information contact the Latour State Forest, 1000 West Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2418).

In Zone C-3 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

#### **MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link: [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. BLM surface management maps for Zone C-3 include: the Burney, Lake Almanor, Red Bluff, Redding, and McArthur maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: U.S. Geological Distribution Center, Denver Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

#### **ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone C-3, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone C-3 are State Highway 299 (northern C-3) and State Highway 44 (southern C-3). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

#### **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains

can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone C-3 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of C-3. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

### **CAMPING**

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone C-3. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish & Game violation. YOU can pack water, wildlife can't!

### **HARVEST INFORMATION**

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

### **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

The deer population in Zone C-3 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone C-3 are primarily Columbian black-tailed deer and are generally considered migratory. Their migration pattern is east to west. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations, above 2,500 feet, in late spring and will remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line into the western portions of Zone C-3. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone C-3 ranging from mixed/montane chaparral, oak-woodland, aspen, hardwood and hardwood-conifer to dense conifer habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Brush stands comprised of buckbrush, deerbrush and bitter cherry are good areas to hunt. Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

### **HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or

groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, in the early season, the best hunting areas include Hatchet Mountain, Burney Mountain, Logan Lake, North Battle Creek Reservoir, Latour Butte, and Whitmore Burn. Later in the season, once the deer have moved down slope, the deer tend to congregate on private lands. Some private timber company lands around Whitmore or Oak Run are accessible to the public. These areas are posted and often these lands are closed to motorized vehicles but open to foot access.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

### **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2003, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone C-3.

### **2003 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

#### **§ 360. Deer.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(3) Zone C.

(A) Area: Shall include all of Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 (see subsections 360(a)(3)(A)1. through 4.).

3. Zone C-3.

In that portion of Shasta County within a line beginning at the intersection of Cottonwood Creek and Interstate 5 at Cottonwood; north on Interstate 5 to the Pit River at Shasta Lake; east and north on the Pit River to Highway 89 at Lake Britton; south on Highway 89 to Highway 44 at Old Station; south and west on Highway 44 to the North Fork of Battle Creek; southwest on the North Fork of Battle Creek to Battle Creek; west on Battle Creek to the Sacramento River; north on the Sacramento River to the mouth of Cottonwood Creek; west on Cottonwood Creek to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The seasons for the C Zone shall be those specified for the areas described as C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 (see subsections 360(a)(3)(B)1. through 4.).

3. Zone C-3.

The season in Zone C-3 shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 37 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 11,000. Zone C tags are valid in Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 during the general season only as described above in subsections 360(a)(3)(B)1. through 4.

#### **§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.**

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(1) A -1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt).

(A) Area: Shall include all of Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 as described in subsections 360(a)(3)(A)1 through 4.

(B) Season:

3. Zone C-3. The archery season for Zone C-3 shall open on the second Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 2,500. A -1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt) tags are valid in Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 only during the archery season as specified above in subsections 361(b)(1)(B)1 through 4.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*